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DCI
2 December 1983

In the upper Matn the Syrians have their 85th and 62nd regular Arm7 brigades stationed. There are 350 artillery tubes - 122, 130 and 155 millimeter guns - in the Matn north of and along the Damascus road. Most of them, in some 70 batteries, are manned by Druze, some by Palestinian and regular Syrian troops. The Syrians provide all of these batteries with their guns, training, ammunition and technical support. Most of the shelling of the Marines begins from Druze positions in the Shuf and the Alayh, again with guns, ammunition and technical support provided by Syrians. This fire from the Shuf and Alayh is sometimes supplemented by heavier fire from Druze and Syrian positions in the Matn. This was done regularly before the September 26 ceasefire and since then Syrian gunners have fired on Beirut three or four times from the Matn.

The critical thing is that all this is commanded from a Syrian command center at Sawfar. There are Druze and Palestinian representatives at the fire control center at Sawfar. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

25X1 [redacted] It is also clear that without the presence and support of the Syrian brigades in the Matn, the LAF would be better able to control the situation and the Druze and Palestinians would be less able to maintain fire like the six shells that were put on the runway at the airport yesterday from the upper Matn.

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